

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 15, 2010

Dear Mr. President,

Louisiana's congressional delegation stands united in our opposition to any kind of moratorium on offshore drilling. We believe that new safety measures can be quickly and effectively implemented so that thousands of Louisianans will not lose their jobs and our coastal economy will not be further harmed by the effects of the oil disaster. We write today to urge you to lift the ban on deep-water drilling and announce a safe, efficient way forward for domestic energy production in your speech to the nation Tuesday evening.

Immediately after the tragic explosion that killed 11 people on the Deepwater Horizon oil rig, you ordered a six-month moratorium on new deepwater drilling. The deep-water moratorium has idled 33 rigs and the workers on these platforms. In addition, the moratorium has imperiled thousands of related oil-service jobs in Louisiana and many Gulf Coast states.

Recently, conflicting reports have circulated that your administration has effectively placed a moratorium on shallow-water drilling as well. While the Department of the Interior has said that no such moratorium is in place, it has been reported that the Minerals Management Service (MMS) is refusing to issue new permits and many of our local companies say they are unclear how to move forward with their operations.

The eyes of Louisiana and the nation will be on you as you address us all from the Oval Office this evening. We must move quickly to cap the Horizon well and contain the oil from this disaster. We have a working coast and our people are clamoring to get back to work in deep-water and shallow-water drilling jobs that have sustained our state for decades. There would be no better time than tonight for you to demonstrate that you have heard loud and clear the voice of Louisianians who oppose any moratorium on offshore drilling.

Thank you for your consideration.


Rep. Rodney Alexander


Rep. Charlie Melancon


Rep. Charles Boustany